

Ar" is vague and indefinite since it is not clear how a coating of oxygen and argon for example could be stable or even exist. In the amendment contained herein, claim 29 has been amended to read "comprises 2 to 4 gases selected from the group consisting of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, and NH<sub>3</sub> and one of O<sub>2</sub> and Ar". As a result, claim 29 as amended makes clear that O<sub>2</sub> and Ar may appear in combination with one or more of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, and NH<sub>3</sub>, but may not be combined together. As a result of these amendments, Applicant believes claim 29 to now be in condition for allowance as well as all of remaining claims 30-50 for the same reasons cited by the Examiner in the Office Action of April 10, 2002.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

EVA MARIA MOSER

By

Jeffrey R. Ambroziak  
Attorney for Applicant

Area Code: 203  
Telephone: 777-6628  
Telefax : 865-0297

Date: October 2, 2002

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AMENDED CLAIM

29. (Twice Amended) Process which comprises:  
coating substrates with a polar coating, wherein the  
coating takes place by means of plasma polymerization;  
including the step of employing a water-free process gas  
which contains at least one substituted hydrocarbon  
compound with up to a maximum of 8 C-atoms and also an  
inorganic gas, to produce a coating which is stable in the  
long term; and [including the step of] wherein the coating  
[a substrate with] comprises 2 to 4 gases [of the  
following:] selected from the group consisting of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>,  
[O<sub>2</sub>,] C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, and NH<sub>3</sub> and one of O<sub>2</sub> and Ar.

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